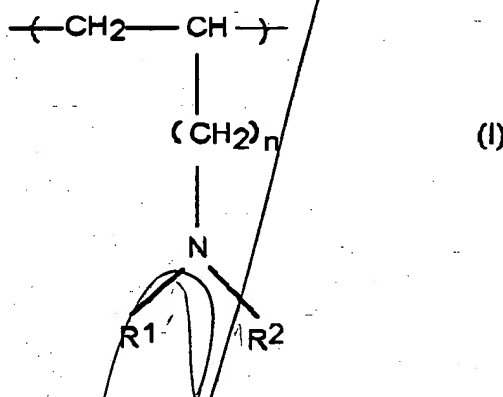


What is claimed is:

1. An ink composition comprising an alkali-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, and a cationic, water-soluble resin, <sup>consisting essentially of</sup> the cationic, water-soluble resin <sup>comprising</sup> a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  which may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl group, provided that  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; and

$n$  is 0, 1, or 2.

2. The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin has an average molecular weight of 300 to 10,000.

3. The ink composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin is an acid addition salt.

4. The ink composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, which further comprises a base.

5. The ink composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the base is a hydroxide of an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal.

6. The ink composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein both  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in the repeating unit represented by the formula (I) represent a methyl group.

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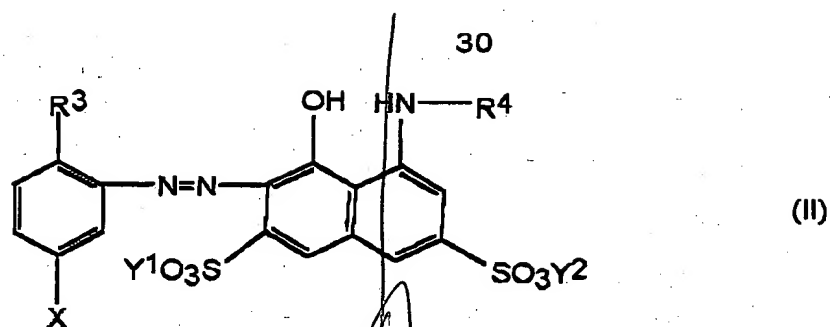
claim!  
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[illegible]

the magenta ink comprising a colorant selected from a group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Red 9 and 227, C.I. Acid Red 52 and 289, and dyes represented by the following structural formula (II):



wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  represent a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl group, an aryl group, a  $C_{1-5}$  alkoxy group, or a phenoxy group or a derivative thereof, a triazine ring or a derivative thereof, a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonyl group or a derivative thereof;

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom; and

$Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  which may be the same or different represent an alkali metal atom, ammonium, or a  $C_{1-5}$  alkylammonium.

13. An ink set comprising a first ink composition or a group of first ink compositions and a second ink composition or a group of second ink compositions,

the first ink composition being the ink composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~,

the second ink composition being an ink composition comprising an anionic material.

14. The ink set according to claim 13, wherein the group of first ink compositions comprises a yellow ink, a magenta ink, and a cyan ink and the second ink composition is a black ink.

15. The ink set according to claim 13, wherein the first ink composition is a black ink and the second group of ink compositions comprises a yellow ink, a magenta ink, and a cyan ink.

16. The ink set according to <sup>claim 13</sup> ~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~, wherein the anionic material contained in the second ink composition is an anionic, water-soluble resin.

17. The ink set according to any one of claims 16, wherein the colorant contained in the second ink composition is a pigment.

Sub.  
A2

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18. The ink set according to <sup>claim 13</sup> ~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~, wherein the anionic material in the second ink composition is a pigment having an anionic functional group on its surface.

19. A recording method comprising the step of: <sup>according to claim 1</sup> depositing an ink composition onto a recording medium to form an image on the recording medium,

~~wherein the ink composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or the ink composition in the ink set according to any one of claims 12 to 18 is used as the ink composition.~~

Sub. A1 > 20. An ink jet recording method comprising the step of: ejecting and depositing droplets of an ink composition onto a recording medium to form an image on the recording medium,

wherein the ink composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or the ink composition in the ink set according to any one of claims 12 to 18 is used as the ink composition.

21. A recorded medium obtained by the method according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~.

add A1  
add D2